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STAT

# Korea spy Maclean dies in Soviet Union

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Donald Maclean, 69, the Soviet agent who used his position in the British establishment to betray vital



Donald Maclean

Western secrets to Moscow, has died in Russia, his adopted homeland, Soviet sources disclosed yesterday. He had suffered from cancer. Maclean, a member of one of history's most notorious and damaging spy rings, passed atomic secrets to the Communists and passed information about American policy during the Korean war, which helped produce the stalemate that has left the country divided ever since.

**HIS HOMOSEXUAL** friend, Guy Burgess, with whom Maclean escaped to the Soviet Union in 1951, died of a heart attack in Moscow in 1963. Master spy Harold (Kim) Philby, who penetrated the heart of the British espionage system, is believed still alive in the Soviet Union.

Maclean's American wife, Melinda, who joined him in the Soviet Union, left him for Philby but then returned to the United States.

Like the rest of the group, Maclean's strength lay in his position on the upper levels of the British caste system, which shielded him for years from suspicion that he could be guilty of such bad form as selling out to a foreign country and philosophy.

Maclean took charge of the American desk at the British Foreign Office in 1950, just 18 days before Chinese armies crossed the border to save the defeated North Koreans. It was a time when crucial policy decisions were being made about the war and the British, who although they had contributed a comparatively small force to the "police action," were partners in forging strategic policy.

**THUS, MACLEAN** was able to report to his Soviet masters that President Truman had secretly agreed that allied forces would not retaliate by carrying the war into China. Burgess was reporting along similar lines from his position with the British Embassy in Washington.

Freed of any concern about their rear, Chinese forces drove down the peninsula. It has been estimated that as many as 8,000 Americans died in Korea as a result of Maclean's teachery.

Suspicion about Maclean and Burgess, however, was growing in American intelligence circles, and the two men fled behind the Iron Curtain just ahead of security investigators. "Third Man" Philby, who had tipped them off, followed them in 1963.